



Most Overlooked “Obscure” Emergency Preparedness Tips

1. Your Family

Make sure ALL members of your family know what to do in time of emergency and disaster. This includes evacuation plans, where to meet if separated, first aid skills, where emergency supplies are stored, and how to turn off utilities if needed.

2. Your Home

Preplan what to remove from your home first (family photos and treasures) in case you have to evacuate on short notice.

3. Your Electric Power

When the electricity fails, turn off appliances. Leave one small light on inside and a porch light on outside so both you and the neighbors will know when power returns. Keep the fridge and freezer closed.

4. Your Feet

That's right, feet! Often in time of disaster our transportation systems may be disrupted or fail completely. You could end up walking – home from work or school, to the hospital, or casualty collection point. Always have a comfortable pair shoes available (at the work site, in the car, at home by the bed at night).

5. Your Automobile

Never let your car get below ½ tank of gas. Almost all of the fuel in our valley is dispensed via an electrical pump from an underground fuel tank. If we loose electric power you will not be able to purchase fuel. If your automobile is on empty when disaster strikes refer to # 2 above.

6. Your Medical Prescription

If you or someone in your family requires unique medication or supplies to maintain health and life (high blood pressure medicine, epilepsy, diabetes, Prozac, etc.) do not wait until you are down to your last dose to refill. Pharmacies may be closed after a disaster or stocks may be low from panic buying.

7. Your Telephone

Your cordless phone will NOT work during a power failure because the base station requires electrical power to function. Standard phones should work during a power failure because there is enough voltage in the lines to support your calls. Cell phones will probably not work in time of disaster because of system overload and system failures.

8. Your Money

Have a small amount of cash at home and on your person at all times for emergency purchases when merchants will not accept checks or atm/credit cards because electronic verification and processing systems have failed.

9. Your Natural Gas Utilities

After an earthquake, if you smell gas, hear gas leaking, have major damage, or are instructed to do so by authorities, turn your natural gas off at the outside meter (you'll need a wrench). Otherwise, you may leave your gas on.

10. Your Pets

Because of health issues, only certified working animals are allowed in Red Cross Shelters. Plan for your pet's needs in time of emergency and keep emergency supplies on hand for your family pets.